



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 * PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

Date: May 21, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Direct Inquiries to: Bart Graves

Contact Information: Bgraves@azdps.gov

TRAFFIC STOP IN FAR NORTHEASTERN ARIZONA PRODUCES 40 STOLEN DRIVER LICENSES

On May 18th, an Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer stopped a white Pontiac just east of Mexican Water, Arizona on the Navajo Reservation for speeding.

A passenger in the car was arrested for a probation violation warrant for distributing methamphetamine. A subsequent search of the car revealed that both the driver and the passenger had over 40 Nevada driver licenses bearing their photographs with other people's names, social security numbers, and dates of birth. They also had two laptop computers and a check printer (where they were printing both personal and business checks made to look authentic). Additionally, they had dozens of business payroll checks made out to various fake identities totaling tens of thousands of dollars.

Arizona Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigators are working with the Las Vegas Metro Police Forgery/Fraud unit on this case.

Arrested: Joshua John Francis/passenger. Age 28. Booked on a felony warrant for sale of amphetamines out of Las Vegas, NV, and local charges of possession of dangerous drugs and drug paraphernalia.

James Depenbrock/driver. Age 41. Booked for possession of dangerous drugs and drug paraphernalia.

"All information obtained in the investigation will be reviewed by the Arizona Homeland Security Fraudulent Identification Task Force at the direction of Governor Napolitano's office," said Leesa Morrison, Director of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security.

"We get a lot of stuff that comes through here according to DPS Sgt. Gene Moran. This just shows the severity of what drug addiction can do and what drug addicts will do to get money."

Both men were booked into the Apache County Jail. Francis will be extradited to Las Vegas on the felony warrant.

Arizona Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigators are examining the 40 fraudulent driver licenses, check printing equipment, and other evidence found in the car. Additional charges are pending.